

INFORMAL NOTES OF MEETING OF DIRECTOR
INTERDEPARTMENTAL FOREIGN INFORMATION ORGANIZATION
IN OFFICE OF DIRECTOR - December 11, 1950

PRESENT:

Department of State - Mr. Barrett, Director
Mr. Stone, Executive Secretary
Mr. Oechsner
Mr. Stephens
Mr. Hulten
Mr. MacKnight
Department of Defense - General Magruder
Joint Chiefs of Staff - Admiral Stevens
Department of the Army - General McClure
Lt. Col. Davis
Central Intelligence Agency -
National Security Resources Board - Mr. Sheppard
Economic Cooperation Administration - Mr. Berding

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Mr. Barrett opened the meeting by reporting briefly on the following items: (1) White House plans for bipartisan policy consultation; (2) special NSC meeting on national emergency measures; (3) preparations for fireside chat by the President tentatively scheduled for latter part of this week; (4) UN discussions re Korea; (5) plans for Secretary Acheson's trip to Brussels for joint meeting of NAT Foreign Ministers and Defense Ministers.

With regard to item II, Col. Davis reviewed changes in the Korea Plan as revised by IFIS, and noted that the plan had taken into account comments and changes suggested by interested elements within the State and Defense Departments. He also called attention to a telegram from the UN delegation to the State Department on reorientation.

In the course of general discussion, Admiral Stevens, General McClure, General Magruder, Mr. Sheppard and Mr. Barrett expressed interest in the mechanism of approval of papers of this kind. Admiral Stevens suggested that the plan be "accepted" by IFIO as a contingency plan for implementation when and where appropriate. He thought that the procedures for approval of such plans should be as flexible as possible and might vary in specific cases. In this case he felt that formal approval by the Defense Department would be unnecessary if paragraph 2, page 14, were amended to provide for action "through the Chief of Staff of the Army," rather than the Joint Chiefs of Staff, thus enabling the Army to execute its portion of the plan as required. General McClure agreed with this view. Mr. Barrett thought this procedure was flexible and effective, and while he was not in a position to accept formally for the State Department today, he would be prepared to report at the next meeting with a view to accepting the plan on this basis.

The following changes were proposed and accepted:

On page 12, paragraph 3d, view A was accepted, and view B was deleted, with the understanding that Mr. Stone and Col. Davis would prepare a draft of the proposed agreement between the Department of State and the Department of Defense for consideration at the next meeting.

On page 13, paragraph 1b was amended to read, "provide for operational support of the execution of the first program in coordination with the Department of Defense."

On page 14, paragraph 2 was amended to read, "the Department of Defense, acting through the Chief of Staff of the Army, should:"

It was agreed that Mr. Stone and Col. Davis should recommend for consideration at the next meeting portions of the plan which might be implemented at this time.

Mr. Oechsner reported that IFIS has in preparation another contingency plan to meet the situation which would arise in the event of evacuation of UN troops or withdrawal below the 38th parallel.

At Mr. Barrett's suggestion it was agreed to invite Mr. Adam Watson of the British Embassy to come in to the meeting for a brief discussion of propaganda policy and objectives relating to the Soviet Union and Satellites. Mr. Barrett noted that under the agreement which had been reached with the British Foreign Office last May, Mr. Watson had been appointed First Secretary at the British Embassy in Washington for liaison with the State Department on all aspects of the foreign information program. We have appointed Mr. William Frye as our representative in London for liaison with the Foreign Office and BBC.

In the course of general discussion with Mr. Watson participating, it was noted that domestic Soviet propaganda is apparently playing down the fear of war and the possible use of the atom bomb, whereas foreign propaganda to the west has been whipping up war fears. While our output should avoid threats to the Russian people, it was generally agreed that we should increase doubt and uncertainty in the minds of the Russian people regarding the news and information they are receiving from their government. Mr. Watson suggested that the Turks and Greeks might be in a position to mention the atom bomb whereas we could not at this time. The possibility of repeating to the Russian people over VOA what their own foreign broadcasts are saying was suggested by

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General McClure. the need for further work on slogans, with particular reference to the Kremlin and NKVD was also suggested. Mr. Watson mentioned the telegram from the British Embassy in Peiping indicating that the campaign of hate against Americans was having little effect upon the Chinese people. He offered to make available a fortnightly analysis of public opinion in China. Mr. Barrett, in concluding this discussion, said that we would welcome any re-thinking in London and would keep in touch with Mr. Watson.

Discussion of item III on the agenda was put off until the next meeting. General McClure noted that he had discussed the possibility of using Moslems with the Chief of Army Chaplains and with Col. Eddy.

With regard to item IV on the agenda, Mr. Hulten reported that a State Department technical mission had completed its survey on radio relay bases in the Philippines and Okinawa and had reached agreement with the British for joint use of facilities in Singapore and Ceylon.

With regard to item V on the agenda, Mr. Barrett called attention to the report on psychological warfare in Germany prepared by [redacted] and suggested fuller discussion at the next meeting.

With regard to item VI, Mr. Barrett distributed sets of the back file of State Department guidances and invited comments and suggestions.

General McClure reported that Mr. Generoso Pope, Publisher of the New York Italian language newspaper, Il Progresso, had offered to give any assistance to our psychological effort. Mr. Hulten said that we had been in touch with Mr. Pope, and that he would follow up. General McClure also reported that the Director of Research for Philco had offered their technical facilities in connection with the development of small receiver sets. Mr. Hulten thought that VOA had been in touch with Philco, and will investigate.